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Paradigm of the Unknown

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Paradigm of the Unknown

Senior Project Submitted to
The Division of the Arts of Bard College

by
Vasia Pemberton

Annandale-on-Hudson, New York

May 2020

Artist's Statement

This project is about portraying the essence of certain unexplained or controversial areas of belief that affect the lives of each and every one of us whether or not we are aware of it. My focus is to explore these confusions by overlaying, compiling, and comparing different narratives revolving around the particular aspects in question, as well as connecting them to a sense of greater mystery, or a fundamental knowledge that we are somehow not privy to.

Inception

This is the story of what was before consciousness existed, and how we came to be where we are today. There are many stories about our creation. Many of them overlap in certain details, and many differ wildly in spect. If we do not even know how we got here, how are we ever to know why we are here?

Energy

Life is based on energy. Everything is formed from it. From a single atom to an entire star, everything is filled with the same unique element of being. This fabric of life and its universality is yet to be marked as a unifying aspect of all that exists.

Dream

We are yet to understand the full potential of dreaming and the deeper realms found within the subconscious. What function they serve us is still widely speculated upon. Many claim to have had profound experiences within a dream and it has been found that through practice, you can obtain absolute liberation of spirit and mind. The potential for anything to happen makes this a place of deep interest for escapists, freedom seekers, and revolutionaries of conscience.

Magic

Magic is melded into our world through the telling of myths or stories. Often being used for entertainment or to explain certain confusions. There are real magicians of course who can dazzle you into believing something, but generally this is an area saved for the mysteries we really have no valid answers for.

Dimensions

It is commonly accepted that there are infinite levels of existence, way beyond the 4 or 5 dimensions that make up the world that we experience. It is theorized that there may be much existing beyond the regular level of our perception.

Infinity

As humans we cannot fully comprehend the true nature of infinity. The closest we know to understanding what that looks and feels like, is by looking into two mirrors facing directly at each other. Yet even then, we are forced to skew our angle of perception as we cannot properly see the illusion without getting in the way. Understanding infinity might help us to understand the potential of our species.

Invisible

Much of the existing universe is actually situated beyond the realms of our actual perception. By inspecting this sense of confusion about knowing something is going on, while not being able to understand its actual function or even make sense of its being, allows us to see clearer our own ignorance about the life which we claim to know. We are also left wondering about how much of our perceived truths are actually mere illusions.

Ghost

Taking into account the paranormal, we notice how many iterations of other worldly beings we have catalogued, imagined, or even become. Interconnectivity with the world of spirit and the realms beyond our own are chalked up together to emphasize the existence of a greater hidden truth.

God

Our conceptions of divinity are multifaceted and have much to do with the formation of our current world and socio-economic relations. This piece is an attempt to exemplify the essence of divinity in its multifaceted senses of being both universal, as well as being bestowed upon us by a higher grace. Much of christian imagery dominates the internet's stores of divine visualizations because their religion is the most focused on convincing the minds of its followers to relinquish control, to accept the wrongdoing of humankind, and to live in pennance to a higher power.

Alien

At this point the existence of extraterrestrial life is almost completely proven. There are countless conspiracies involving governmental cover up of UFOs, human-alien collaboration, and experimentation. There is much to speculate about, even the possibility of us ourselves being aliens, or related to aliens. If we can understand how much more there is to learn and to strive for, our species may have a chance of not only becoming a more sustainable inhabitant of earth, we may even develop the capabilities for more valuable, universal impact. The truth is out there!

Deep

Speculating on the worlds of possibility that exist in the cosmos, the ocean appears as a strikingly similar opportunity for such discovery. How much is hidden under the depths of the

sea? Probably a lot less than in the vast corners of ever-expanding space, but with 80% of it's depths remaining to be explored, there is no telling what possibilities lie at the bottom of our depths.

Death

The event horizon. We all must face it, yet we all are clueless as to what to expect on the other side. The analogy of entering black hole to see inside is that by the time you have discovered the truth, your body and consciousness remain no more. We are stuck imagining the possible ways in which life functions after death: reincarnation, eternal damnation, eternal salvation, ect... Why is it that there is so little to grasp about the truth beyond our corporeal existence? As time runs out, we lose ourselves to the greater cosmos - to the biggest learning experience imaginable. I believe that if we can understand the greater working of life beyond life, we will finally recognize our full potential as beings of light.